

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously amended) A sound absorbing article, comprising:
  - (i) a material which is pervious to air, and which is characterized by proximal and distal surfaces with respect to a sound source, an internal structure, and a specific weight; and
  - (ii) a water-glass coating, which is applied in a controlled manner and which adheres to said surfaces and internal structure, increasing said specific weight by a controlled, predetermined factor, said factor being less than 7 , so as to maintain a perviousness to said material.
2. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said material is a fibrous material.
3. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of natural fibers.
4. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of natural fibers, selected from the group consisting of wool, linen, cotton, canvas, cannabis, reed, weed, straw, stalks, seaweed, and a blend thereof.
5. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of fibers derived from cellular materials.
6. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of fibers derived from cellular materials selected from the group consisting of Rayon, Viscosa, and a blend thereof.
7. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of fibers derived from cellular materials, selected from the group consisting of recycled paper, recycled organic waste, recycled cellular fiber, and mixtures thereof.

8.-14. (canceled)

15. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is nonwoven.

16-17. (canceled)

18. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said material is between 10 and 100 mm thick.

19. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said material is between 2.0 and 10 mm thick.

20. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said material is between 1.0 and 2.0 mm thick.

21. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said material is between 0.4 and 1.0 mm thick.

22.--30 (canceled)

31. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1 and further comprising a flame-retardant agent mixed into a liquid adhesive that forms said coating.

32. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent is selected from the group consisting of alumina trihydrate, zinc borate, hexabromocyclododecane, decabromodiphenyl oxide, magnesium hydroxide, ammonium polyphosphates, phosphoric acid, and tetrakis hydroxymethyl phosphonium chloride.

33. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent is water soluble.

34. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent is soluble in a liquid adhesive with which it is mixed, to form said coating.

35. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent forms between 10 % and 90 % by weight of said coating.

36. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent forms between 30 % and 70 % by weight of said coating.

37. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said coating increases said specific weight by a factor between 1.1 and 2.

38. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said coating increases said specific weight by a factor between 2 and 3.

39. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said coating increases said specific weight by a factor between 3 and 4.

40. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said coating increases said specific weight by a factor between 4 and 5.

41. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said coating increases said specific weight by a factor between 5 and 6.

42. (original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said coating increases said specific weight by a factor between 6 and 7.

43 - 99, (Cancelled)